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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

Rural District of Loddon

FOR THE YEAR 1938.



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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the Year 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Loddon Rural District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to lay before you my Report for 1938.

The estimated Population of the District is 11,560. With an acreage of 60,000, this gives an average of just under .2 per acre.

The District is agricultural.

The effective Rateable Value of the District according to the Valuation List at present in force is £27,185; the product of a 1d. rate producing £124.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births.

(Legitimate)	Male 92;	Female 75.	}	Total 172.
(Illegitimate)	Male 3;	Female 2.		

This is equivalent to a birth-rate of 14.87 per 1000 population; the corresponding figure last year was 15.47, and that of the previous year 15.18. The birth-rate for the year for the whole of England and Wales is 15.1 per 1000, as compared to 14.9 of last year; our local birth-rate is therefore below the average for the whole country which has increased slightly this year, and also below our local average of last year.

Stillbirths. Males 2; Females 3; Total 5. In no case was the child illegitimate.

Deaths.

Males 84; Females 63, a total of 147, giving a crude death-rate of 12.71 per 1000 population. The corresponding figure last year was 11.77. The death-rate for England and Wales is 11.6, compared to 12.4 of last year. Our local crude death-rate (which is the actual number of deaths) shows an increase on last year. The adjusted death-rate figure for our district which is provided to show a fair comparison between all districts is this year 9.6, as against 8.9 per 1000 population of last year. This figure therefore compares favourably with that of the whole of the country which is 11.6 per thousand.

The difference between the local crude death-rate figure of 12.71 per 1000 and the adjusted local figure of 9.6 per 1000, demonstrates a preponderance of elderly people over younger people in this rural district.

Deaths from Cancer and other forms of Malignant Disease amount to 21, or 14.2 per cent. of total deaths.

Deaths from Tuberculosis, 8, being 5.4 per cent.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis, Nil.

The corresponding percentages for deaths from Cancer and Tuberculosis last year were 17.5 and 3.6 per cent. The mortality thus shows a slight decrease in the case of Malignant Disease, and a slight increase in the case of Tuberculosis.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths under 1 year of age, Males 3; Females 4, a total of 7. In no case was the child illegitimate. This gives a death-rate of 4.0 per cent. of births, contrasting with that of England and Wales of 5.3 per cent. Last year our local death-rate was 3.3 per cent. of births, and that of England and Wales 5.8 per cent. Although our local rate is slightly higher this year than our exceptionally low figure of last year, it compares very favourably even with the improved figure of the whole of the country, and remains our second best figure during the past 11 years.

A comparison of our local figures of deaths under 1 year for the past years is as follows:

1928	...	...	7.1	per cent of births.
1929	...	...	5.7	" "
1930	...	...	5.5	" "
1931	...	...	4.3	" "
1932	...	...	4.9	" "
1933	...	...	4.0	" "
1934	...	...	6.7	" "
1935	...	...	6.2	" "
1936	...	...	5.0	" "
1937	...	...	3.3	" "
1938	...	...	4.0	" "

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of diseases was as follows:

Small Pox	..	0	Puerperal Pyrexia	..	0
Scarlet Fever	..	13	Pneumonia	..	22
Diphtheria	..	2	Erysipelas	..	0
Enteric Fever	..	0			

Mortality in the above cases: Pneumonia 5.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There have been 11 new cases reported during the year, as against 12 last year, while 8 persons have died from Tuberculosis, as against 5 last year. Of these 11 cases, 3 are Males and 8 Females. As regards the 3 Male cases, 2 are of the pulmonary type, and 1 of the non-pulmonary type; whilst of the 8 Female cases, 3 are of the pulmonary type, and 5 are of the non-pulmonary type.

Regarding the 8 deaths from Tuberculosis, 2 are Male cases and 6 Female. The 2 Male cases died of pulmonary Tuberculosis. Four of the Female cases died of pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Age incidents of new cases and deaths: —

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1
35	1	2	...	...	1	3	...	...
45	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	2	3	1	5	2	4	...	2

NURSING AND HOSPITALS.

NURSING.—Practically every parish in the District is covered by one of the various District Nursing Associations. These are well organised by the respective Committees. The nurses are keenly interested in their work, and their services and the care which they take in the cases are much valued by the public, especially the cottagers. Maternity cases and Infant Health visits claim a good deal of the nurses' attention, and although this year there is a slight increase in infantile mortality compared with the previous year when it was exceptionally low, the percentage is still very small, and is mainly due to the care and advice given by the nurses.

MIDWIFERY.—The work of the Midwifery Department of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital continues to prove most valuable in dealing with those cases that could not be properly treated in their own homes.

HOSPITALS.—(*a*) *General.*—The Hospital system and Contributory scheme continue as in previous years, and many patients have received much benefit from treatment at the hospitals. The work of these institutions is of paramount importance, and the constant installation of modern equipment and improved accommodation means increased maintenance costs. The efforts which are continually being made to maintain the institutions on a voluntary basis should receive every support. In urgent cases the removal of patients by motor ambulances is of great value, especially when an operation is necessary.

(*b*) *Isolation Hospital.*—During the year under review the new Central Isolation Hospital at East Dereham erected by the Norfolk County Council was opened and some of our patients have been sent there. Prior to the opening our patients were admitted to the Lowestoft Borough Isolation Hospital under an agreement with the Lowestoft Corporation. In future all cases will be sent to East Dereham.

SANATORIA.—Sanatorium arrangements continue under the control of the County Authorities.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

BAKE-HOUSES.—There are three in the district and they are satisfactorily kept.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, &c.—There are 8 registered slaughter-houses and 7 licensed. Licensed knackers 2. These have been regularly inspected and found to be satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933. — Licensed slaughtermen number 45.

DISINFECTION. — Fumigation was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector in 18 houses.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS. The total registrations are: Cowkeepers 172, Retailers 103, Accredited Producers 73, Butter-makers 61, Milkshops 2.

WATER SUPPLY.—The District is at present supplied by wells, and the supply has been satisfactory. With increased building, however, it is becoming evident that consideration will have to be given to the taking of a piped supply in some parts of the district for which arrangements could probably be made with existing water undertakings.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE remain unaltered.

SCAVENGING as in previous years is carried out by contract in the parish of Loddon and a portion of the parish of Ditchingham. Both schemes are working satisfactory.

HOUSING.

The work of Housing Inspections and other work under the various Housing Acts has been fully maintained by your Sanitary Inspector, who had, for a part of the year, the assistance of a temporary officer for the work of measuring houses.

The statistics are as follows:

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses:*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	222
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	278
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	50
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	62

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	72
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	48
2.	<i>Remedy of defects without service of formal notice :</i>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	40
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers :</i>	
	A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ..	0
	B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ..	0
	C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	59
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

D. Proceedings under section 12 of Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. *Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding:*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	11
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	11
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	81
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	59
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	323
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of the overcrowding	0
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	

5. *Sanitary Staff.*

One whole-time Sanitary Inspector is employed. He carries out the duties of Inspector under the Housing Acts, the taking of samples and inspections under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the inspections of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Slaughter-houses, and Meat inspections. He also supervises the work under the Building Bye-laws, and superintends the scavenging schemes.

Since October, 1938, there has been a temporary Officer to assist in the work of measuring houses.

The work of the Sanitary Inspector is very varied, and considering the numerous duties he has to carry out, it has been done very thoroughly and conscientiously. I am much indebted to him for his assistance and co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD N. P. MARTLAND, M.B.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Loddon Rural District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit, as your Sanitary Inspector, the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

HOUSING.

During the year 72 houses were inspected with a view to Demolition.

Orders under Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, were made as follows:—

Demolition Orders	...	...	...	59
Suspended Demolition Orders	...	...	...	9
Closing Orders	...	...	...	2
Undertakings not to let	...	...	...	39
				109

118 families were rehoused during the year.

From Individual unfit houses	...	41	involving	108	heads.
„ Clearance Areas	...	18	„	60	„
„ Overcrowded houses	...	59	„	323	„
Totals		118		491	

During the year 118 Council houses were erected, and on the 31st December, 1938, eight were in course of erection.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

453 samples were taken during the year with the following results:

		<i>Samples Taken.</i>	<i>Passed.</i>	<i>Failed.</i>	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>
Accredited	...	301	264	37	—	—
Bulk Samples for biological examination	...	152	—	—	13	139
		453	264	37	13	139

One Accredited licence was suspended owing to the producer failing to make his premises up to the standard required. Two Accredited producers were suspended until two consecutive satisfactory samples had been obtained.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

417 visits were made during the year, an increase of 145 over the preceding year. 8,933 animals were slaughtered in the district, and 2,314 carcasses inspected, an increase of 931 over 1937.

It was arranged that killing days at one slaughter-house should be decreased to five, but it was impossible to alter the killing on Sundays. Two Registered slaughter-houses were not used during the year.

During my absence at the Sanitary Inspectors' Conference, Mr. G. Browne of the Forehoe and Henstead R.D.C. carried out the inspections on the Sunday, Monday and Wednesday of that week. Again this year I was unable to take more than four days consecutive holiday, Mr. Browne inspecting on the Wednesday.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle, excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number Killed (8933) ...	818	338	4,533	1,720	1,524
Number Inspected (2314) ...	380	338	440	1,014	142
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	98	93	—	243	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis ...	25·78	27·51	·25	35·29	3·52
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	8	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	54	128	—	—	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	36·84	40·23	—	—	11·97

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE AND REGISTRATIONS.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

				1937.	1938.
Cowkeeper Producers	...	...	...	173	172
.. Retailers	...	...	...	101	103
.. Butter-makers	...	...	...	61	61
Accredited Producers	...	...	...	78	73
Milkshops	...	...	...	2	2

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

				<i>Registered.</i>	<i>Licensed.</i>
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	8	7
Knacker's	...	...	...	—	2
Slaughter-men	...	...	...	—	45

BAKE-HOUSES. Three.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Houses measured in accordance with Act, (Overcrowding)	...	...	...	...	780
Houses found overcrowded	...	...	...	...	3
Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	122
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	178
Visits for infectious disease	...	...	...	...	15
Houses fumigated	...	...	...	...	18
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	30
Nuisances detected	...	...	...	...	603
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	370
Letters sent to owners to abate nuisances	...	...	...	...	25

INSPECTIONS.

Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	1350
Dairies	...	...	...	...	400
Milkshops	...	...	...	...	8
Bake-houses	...	...	..	...	6
Slaughter-houses	...	...	..	...	117
Petroleum	...	...	..	...	30
Knackers	..	...	...	...	10
Shops	...	...	...	...	15
Special visits	...	...	...	...	210

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

Plans submitted	...	...	...	...	207
„ approved	...	...	...	...	207
„ returned for amendment	...	...	...	...	3
Completed in accordance with bye-laws	...	...	...	...	145
Dwellings in course of erection, 31st Dec., 1938	...	...	...	...	15
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	218
Drains tested and found satisfactory	...	...	...	...	43
„ „ unsatisfactory on first test	...	...	...	...	14
Drainage inspections	...	...	...	...	30
Contraventions under bye-laws	...	...	...	...	3

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

Plans submitted	...	...	...	...	207
„ approved	...	...	...	...	203
„ returned for amendment	...	...	...	...	4
„ refused	...	...	...	...	4

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Cowsheds built	...	...	...	...	2
Floors cleaned	...	...	...	...	2
Standings concreted (sheds)	...	...	...	...	3
„ shortened „	...	...	...	...	2
Channels altered	...	...	...	...	3
Drainage re-constructed	...	...	...	...	1
Covered drains in shed removed	...	...	...	...	1
Lighting in sheds improved	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilation in sheds improved	...	...	...	...	2
Use of hayracks discontinued	...	...	...	...	1
Approach to sheds concreted	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulation of manure removed	...	...	...	...	1

DAIRIES.

New	...	...	...	...	2
Lighting improved	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	2
Separate access from sheds	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ house	...	...	...	...	2
Coolers renewed	...	...	...	...	2

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

Complaints investigated	...	...	...	8
Refuse dumps inspected	..	...	...	8

Cyanogas was used at the refuse dump on three occasions,
with satisfactory results.

DWELLING-HOUSES, &c.

			<i>Outstanding Dec., 1937.</i>	<i>Nuisances found.</i>	<i>Nuisances abated.</i>
Foul privy bins	...	...	—	4	1
Cesspools full	...	...	—	3	3
Drains defective	...	...	—	8	8
„ choked	...	...	—	2	2
„ without means of inspection	...	...	—	1	1
Inspection chambers defective	...	...	—	1	1
Absence of sinks	...	...	—	3	3
Yards defective	...	...	—	1	1
Walls, plaster, brickwork, defective	...	...	34	78	85
„ damp	...	...	20	86	53
„ pointing defective	...	...	—	17	25
Windows, defective, insufficient area and or opening space	...	...	25	148	94
Stoves defective	...	...	4	10	3
Copper defective	...	...	2	3	1
Stairs defective	...	...	3	5	3
Ceilings defective	...	...	6	23	13
Ovens defective	...	...	2	4	1
Food stores unventilated	...	...	—	1	—
Roofs defective	...	...	3	13	9
Closets defective	...	...	2	28	3
Chimneys defective	...	...	8	41	13
Eaves gutters, rain water pipes defective	...	...	—	2	2
Absence of or defective butts	...	...	—	3	2
Floors defective, and/or damp	...	...	24	88	53
			133	603	380

Water samples taken ... 44

Inspections under the Housing Acts are still below the standard necessary, owing to there being no diminution of work in other branches. Slaughter-house inspections increased by 145, and the number of carcasses inspected by 931.

My thanks are again due to the Council and Committees for such interest and support as have been given during the year to further the cause of Public Health, and also to Dr. Martland for his co-operation and assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

KENNETH S. STARLING,

C.R.S.I., M.I.H., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

